

CUBA IN THE WAR LEADS WAY FOR LATIN AMERICAN STATES

Gratitude to United States and Real Fear for Future of Democracy Underlying Reasons for Action Taken Against the German Militarists

By EUSEBIO S. AZPIAZU, Private Secretary to the President of Cuba.

ON Saturday evening, April 7, 1917, at 7:10 o'clock, Mario G. Menocal, President of the Republic of Cuba, affixed his signature to the law, unanimously voted by both branches of the Cuban Congress, declaring a state of war to exist between Cuba and the Imperial German Government.

The action taken by Cuba was widely acclaimed throughout the whole of the United States and interpreted rightly as especially significant to Americans in that it fully justified that policy of all-Americanism since Monroe, which with due regard to different political conditions and substituting Europe and the world for America) has been and continues to be proclaimed by the United States and the United States (the war to its bitter end, namely, the right of small nations to essay to work out for themselves the development of their own destinies.

The case of Cuba is an exceptional one, its very uniqueness serving but to emphasize the moral as well as the material value of the entry of the United States in the war. Before this happened there were many people in

the western hemisphere who questioned the real motives underlying the repeated assertions of the Allies that their cause was that of democracy and that it signified the triumph of the principle of nationality.

That the United States, promulgator of the Monroe Doctrine and guarantor

of the liberty and independence of the Republic of Cuba, should cast its lot with the Allies has caused many Latin American countries, notably Argentina and Brazil, to revise their estimates of the merits of the contending forces to an extent such that they are not actually belittlers they have openly declared their sympathy with the motives that induced their northern neighbor to declare war. This is the attitude now of nearly every one of the Latin republics in the southern continent.

FOOD SAVING ART AGES OLD REVIVED TO MEET WAR NEEDS

THREE years of war have brought mankind face to face again with the oldest problem of the human race—the problem of food supply. True, conditions of the problem have changed somewhat. There is no danger that the earth may fail to produce sufficient food. The problem is to transport and store the food crops of one season so that they may be available in places where the necessities of war have reduced production to a point below consumption. But the very cause which makes necessary the transportation of food in immensely greater quantities than ever before also operates to restrict the facilities for so transporting it.

Production in the allied countries of Europe has fallen far below consumption, and only the resources of the United States stand between the people of France, Britain and Italy and starvation. Yet ocean tonnage is at the greatest premium in all history. The ravages of the submarine and the necessity of transporting large quantities of munitions and men across the Atlantic have brought about a shortage in ocean going shipping. Until sufficient tonnage can be built and manned the crying need is for some process which will make possible an enormous reduction in the bulk of food supplies which must be carried across the Atlantic.

Chemists Working on Problem.

To this end the chemists at the Mrs. Oliver Harriman Food Research Laboratory have been bending their energies for the last six months. With the cooperation of the New York City Bureau of Foods and Drugs they have been experimenting on the possibilities of dehydration, and after exhaustive practical investigations have constructed a dehydrating plant for the making of products which are believed by competent authorities to be far in advance of any hitherto produced. A dehydrating plant, soon to be duplicated in several large cities, has been set up in the east gallery of the Grand Central Terminal and is in operation. It has a capacity of 1,000 pounds of dehydrated fruit and vegetables a day.

Clarence V. Ekroth, assistant chief chemist of the Bureau of Foods and Drugs, is the director of the Mrs. Oliver Harriman Food Research Laboratory. He has the process perfected practically all water is removed from the raw product. As most fruits and vegetables contain from 70 to 90 per cent of water, the complete removal of moisture results in an enormous reduction in weight and volume. This may be further increased by the compression of the dehydrated products, so that a cube one and one-half inches

in dimensions contains the equivalent of a can of tomatoes. The addition of water—rehydration or reconstitution, as it is called—brings the vegetable back to its natural condition.

In discussing the progress which has been made in the new process Mr. Ekroth said:

"The discovery that the removal of water naturally present in foods would arrest decomposition was made many years ago. The ancient Indians and the savage tribes of Africa are known to have dried their surplus meat supplies so that they might not be in want when game was scarce or hunting difficult. Egyptian tradition called for the placing of food in the tombs alongside the dead, and it is said that dried kernels of grain more than six thousand years old when discovered in the tombs in our time yielded perfect grain upon planting.

How the Indians Worked.

"These people made use of the sun's heat and the wind of the air to carry away the water in the food products, and while the palatability and other properties of the dried material would not have appealed to the elaborate tastes of our present age, yet we cannot question their methods so far as the keeping qualities are concerned.

"The North American Indians separated the fat of meat from the muscular tissue, drying the latter. When dried, or at least partly so, they melted the fat and mixed it with the dried meat, which had been pounded into a paste or powder, and then adding a few berries to improve the flavor, the whole was compressed into cakes. This product is known as pemican, and is nowadays made of beef especially for the use of Arctic explorers. In South America, jerked or dried meat is known variously as tasajo or tasajo, and jerked venison is prepared and used by mountain dwellers in the Rockies and our Southern mountain ranges. In South Africa these dried meat products are known as biltong.

"The process of drying as means of preserving food for storage possesses great advantages over canning and cold storage, while embodying practically every advantage obtained by those agencies. Dehydration greatly diminishes both the bulk and weight of the material, making it both easier and cheaper to store and transport. The food value is concentrated, while at the same time preservation is secured by the removal of the water.

"The cost of handling and transporting equivalent amounts of canned and dehydrated products of the same food material will show a saving of at least 80 per cent. in favor of the dehydrated product.

"At certain seasons farm products come in in such great quantities that it becomes absolutely necessary to employ some ready means to prevent the great wastage. There are several factors which operate to produce wastage, among which are irregularity of production and refusal of the consumer to purchase undersized material which is perfectly sound and mature and equally as nutritious as the product of normal size and appearance.

Surplus Product Wasted.

"During the year 1917 this waste was greatly increased, owing to the response to the President's appeal for greater production, which, it is estimated, amounted to at least 33 per cent. over normal and in spite of the fact that canning plants were operated and home conservation practiced to a greater extent than ever before. Could this condition have been foreseen a year or two ago we could have prepared to take care of all surplus material in dehydrating plants, which can be operated with less overhead expense than either the cannery or the refrigerating plant.

"As food for armies in the field dehydrated products are almost ideal. One of the most important features of the food conservation movement in Germany since the outbreak of the war has been the practice of dehydrating fruits and vegetables, and Germany's efficiency in connection with the conservation of that country's limited food resources is strikingly demonstrated by the fact that after more than three years isolation from the world markets upon which she formerly depended that nation still manages to feed its inhabitants.

"In June, 1914, there were 480 dehydrating plants in Germany, producing annually about a quarter of a million pounds of potatoes alone. In a food conservation campaign organized at the time of Germany's first declaration of war 246 new dehydrating plants were added, 120 of which were added by Government funds.

"In this country the processes for removing moisture from an industrial scale seem to have been used primarily with a view to the conservation of material which would otherwise have gone to waste. The art was therefore largely developed by men who understood little of its technical side. Furthermore the product had to make its appeal to the consumer largely if not wholly on the basis of cheapness. These two factors have combined to retard the higher development of the industry as well as the improvement of the product."



Mrs. Oliver Harriman in the Food Research Laboratory she founded.

DEHYDRATION
SAVES

How the Island Will Help.

First—A thorough reorganization of the army and navy, the former comprising a body of about 18,000 highly trained and well disciplined men who could if the necessity for it arose form the nucleus of a much larger organization that could easily be indefinitely maintained at a maximum strength of 100,000.

The navy, to which is being added a fleet of submarine chasers, is chiefly designed for scouting work and as an auxiliary of the American fleet patrolling Caribbean and Gulf waters on the lookout for submarines.

Second—The mobilization of the economic and agricultural resources of the island. It is along these latter lines that the island can render its greatest service, and it is because both the United States and Cuba realize it that so really serious effort is being made to arm large bodies of men, though private initiative having the Cuban Government's moral and to a certain extent material support will probably result in an encadrement of airplanes manned by Cuban aviators being sent to the front in France. Mrs. Menocal the wife of President Menocal, has also consented to become the effective head of the Cuban Red Cross for the purpose of starting a countrywide campaign to raise at least \$1,000,000 to be devoted to the erection and outfitting of a hospital to be operated in France by the Cuban Red Cross.

Cuba realizes that she can put her resources in men to better service for the Allies by mobilizing labor and obtaining an increase in immigration



GENERAL MARIO GARCIA MENOCAL, PRESIDENT OF CUBA.

that will enable her to move her tremendous crops of sugar, a commodity now so important that it has become one of the necessities of life.

Every energy is being devoted to preparing for the coming crop, and tens of thousands of men are needed to cut the cane, more thousands to man the trains that will transport it to the mills and still other thousands to operate these mills so that the stream of sugar may flow unchecked from December to August.

Sugar Crop Larger.

When the population of Cuba is taken into consideration—it is consistently short of 3,000,000—one is struck by the tremendous activity that must be displayed by the people of the island whose foreign commerce during the year 1916 alone totalled over \$605,000,000. The principal item in this large sum is for sugar, and Cuba's meagre population is scarcely sufficient to overcome the difficulties attending the production of a crop that this year gave to the world approximately six and three-quarter billion pounds of sugar and that for the coming campaign is estimated at eight billion pounds (three and a half billion long tons), nearly one-fourth of the available world supply, larger by far than any that Germany or India, the largest pre-war producers of sugar, have ever produced. In this connection it is opportune to note that Cuba supplies more than half the sugar consumed in the United States.

The man upon whose shoulders rests almost the entire responsibility incurred by Cuba's entry into the war is Mario G. Menocal, President of the Republic, now in the first year of his second term.

President Menocal is a civil engineer, a graduate of Cornell University in the class of 1888. Immediately upon his graduation he obtained a position as engineer in a minor capacity, but his concern doing work in Central America.

An index of the nature of this work may be gained from the fact that applicants for engineering positions were required to sign a contract stipulating that, in the event of death, if the applicant desired to be given interment in his native country, he should sign his consent to have \$150 deducted from his salary for that purpose. As Cuba was then ruled by Spain, Menocal says he felt no special need of being buried in any particular country, and he signed the contract stating he preferred to dispose of his \$150 in this life.

He soon rose in his profession, however, and 1895, the beginning of the war of independence, found him in charge of some railroad construction work in Comaguay Province. He was of the first to join that movement, entering the Army of Liberation as a private and retiring at the conclusion of the war, three years later, a full fledged Major-General in command of the Fifth Army Corps.

Entrusted by the provisional Government with the organization of the Police Department of Havana, whose first chief he became, he left Government employ some time later to manage and become part owner of the now world famous sugar estate, Chaparra, for fourteen years Menocal devoted himself to this task and when in May, 1913, he went to Havana to take possession of the reins of Government, having been elected President in November, 1912, he left behind him an industrial organization with

DELICIAS; ONE OF THE GREAT CUBAN SUGAR MILLS WITH AN OUTPUT OF OVER HALF A MILLION BAGS.

a combined production of over 1,000,000 bags of sugar a season and giving employment to nearly 15,000 men. This tremendous establishment, from the completeness of its organization, was sometimes referred to as the Republic of Chaparra, a republic within a republic, from the fact that it was all sufficient unto itself. It has a health department, operates hospitals, schools, power plants, shipping terminal

and a railroad having 250 miles of track, 2,000 cars and 30 locomotives; in fact, everything that a well ordered modern community needs to live in comfort.

When Menocal became President in May, 1913, he found a not too cheerful situation confronting him, so far as general conditions, and the financial situation in particular, were concerned. The difficulty of his situation was

BEEFSTEAK AT DOLLAR A POUND APPEARS NOW TO BE IN SIGHT

A STEELY glint appeared in the frosty blue eyes of the lean and tanned cattleman.

As with one hand he rolled a cigarette, put it in his mouth and then flicked a match into flame with his finger nail, his other hand toyed idly with the long blue six shooter in his holster. Then he leaned over his saddle horn and addressed the old sheepherder. Gentle as was his tone, his words and manner gave terrible meaning.

"Thirty minutes we give yuh, stranger," he said. "Then vamoose, you and yowah varmints. And if you don't git—!" and he tapped the handle of his six shooter, his action fraught with dread significance for the old cowboy, man who was trying to gain a living for self and sheep in this cow country."

That's the way it used to be in the great West, according to nearly every Western story. The sheepman would string to a cattle range, but only at great risk for himself and his sheep. Usually the hero of the yarn, unless he happens to be in love with the sheepman's daughter, runs sheep and herds of the range.

But if it was like that in the old days, as it probably was, how things have changed! Now instead of employing his spare time in maddening the business of his neighbor the sheepman, the cowboy is poring over the market reports on wool and mutton. He is a sheepman to learn costs and lambing percentages, and then with stubby pencil and a few pages from the catalogue of a big mail order house—for writing paper is seldom at hand—trying to figure the business hazards of selling his cattle and purchasing sheep.

Sheep Comes Into Its Own.

For the sheep of the Western range has come into a glory which may be transitory but is nevertheless substantial while it lasts. Vaguely, large numbers have been made by sheepmen in the last year, and the modest little pester with his tiny band of sheep is everywhere in the West ordering his plane and worrying over the price of gasoline. The romance of the sheep in business may be nearing its culmination, but short though the story may be it is a glorious history. Men with small bands of from 400 to 800 sheep who only a year or two back were content to live with their families in a (usually dirty) one room shack, if they could count enough for their modest grub and the necessary calico for the wife to make clothes for herself and the children, must this year pay not only an income tax to the Government, but also a surtax.

The cowboy now is a very well paid man, and his sheep are big, fat, and healthy. He is not only a sheepman, but a businessman, and he is not only a businessman, but a stockman. He is not only a stockman, but a ranchman, and he is not only a ranchman, but a cowboy. He is not only a cowboy, but a sheepman, and he is not only a sheepman, but a businessman. He is not only a businessman, but a stockman, and he is not only a stockman, but a ranchman. He is not only a ranchman, but a cowboy, and he is not only a cowboy, but a sheepman. He is not only a sheepman, but a businessman, and he is not only a businessman, but a stockman. He is not only a stockman, but a ranchman, and he is not only a ranchman, but a cowboy. He is not only a cowboy, but a sheepman, and he is not only a sheepman, but a businessman. He is not only a businessman, but a stockman, and he is not only a stockman, but a ranchman. He is not only a ranchman, but a cowboy, and he is not only a cowboy, but a sheepman. 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